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**Widney, Joseph P.** *Race Life of the Aryan Peoples.* Two vols. Pp. xiv, 706. Price, \$2.00 each. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1907.

A popular account, chronologically arranged, of the movements and developments of all the known Aryan peoples beginning with the old Asian home and tracing the history down even to the latest occupied habitats of the English-speaking peoples. There is practically no indication that there are involved serious questions of fact, on which students are by no means agreed, save in the discussion of the original seat of the Aryans. No authorities are quoted either in the text, footnotes or appendix. The author fully believes that the Aryan is the superior of all other races of men; that of all Aryans the English-speaking groups are, and will be the leaders, while the Americans are to be in the van in the centuries to come. A considerable part of the second volume is given over to superficial consideration of American problems and forecastings of future developments, such as the alliance of all English-speaking peoples and the extinction (or migration) of the negroes. The style of the volumes is bright, the narrative interesting, the facts of the migrations generally accurate. The reader will enjoy the book—the student will wonder where the author gets the evidence for his conclusions and will probably smile at his naïve philosophy.

**Wood, W. A.** *Modern Business Corporations.* Pp. xi, 358. Price, \$2.50. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co.

Reserved for later notice.

**Wright, H. N.** *A Handbook of the Philippines.* Pp. xvii, 431. Price, \$1.40. Chicago: A. C. McClurg Co. 1907.

Reserved for later notice.

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REVIEWS.

**Barker, E.** *The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle.* Pp. xxii, 559. Price, \$3.50. New York: Putnam's Sons, Importers, 1906.

A proper perspective of the political thought of the greatest two of the philosophers of Greece demands a review of the work of those who preceded them as well as that of their contemporaries. With this purpose Mr. Barker opens his book with a very clear discussion of the early Greek philosophers and of Socrates, the minor Socratics and the Sophists. The story as told is at once so simple and apparently complete that the reader is in doubt whether the subject matter at hand justifies so consecutive a treatment. Into the story, based on evidence, the author has woven the fruits of modern speculation and criticism upon his subject and the result is an attractive presentation of something which, stripped of the contributions of secondary writers, must always remain a hazy, fragmentary record of development. In a sense, therefore, the book is a discussion of the political thought about the Greek philosophers as well as a presentation of the theories actually attributable to them. With this qualification it is just to say that the work is admirably done.

To the political thought of Plato the author devotes three chapters, to that of Aristotle seven. The comparisons between the two philosophers will impress some readers as not always well chosen. Plato is considered above all a practical reformer, his writings were intended as projects for actual social reform. Aristotle was a speculative genius, a theorist interested rather in the co-ordination of all human knowledge than in the people around him. And again, "Aristotle wrote the 'Politics,' but Plato is the great political thinker of Greece" (p. 184).

There are numerous passages to which many political scientists would raise objection not only in criticism of the author's interpretation of his subject, but in some cases of his use of terms. An example of the latter is the following: "To Aristotle . . . citizenship means direct participation in the exercise of sovereignty. It does not mean as it means to-day, the right to share in the election of the sovereign." Is it true that citizenship, as at present conceived, means ability to partake in the choice of a sovereign? Most political scientists would surely, if forced to decide between the two definitions given, vote that the one ascribed to Aristotle is more in line with present thought than the one given by the author. Instances of this character could be easily multiplied.

But as a whole the book is a creditable production of an earnest scholar. Its style is excellent—it is much more readable than the average work dealing with political theory. Perhaps the best summary that can be made of the volume would be: It is a good book on theory which an average man can read.

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*Cambridge Modern History.* Volume X, The Restoration. Pp. xxix, 907. Price, \$4.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1907.

The treatment of the nineteenth century by the "Cambridge Modern History" very naturally gives rise to new difficulties to editors and authors alike. Apart altogether from the difficulties arising from the nearness of the historian to the events he is treating and the consequent difficulties of obtaining a proper perspective, there is the problem of the enormous volume of the material, which is in the main unorganized, and which has not yet been subjected to critical examination by the trained historian. Under these circumstances the monographic plan of the Cambridge history has here even greater advantage than in previous periods. In a new field of history the work of the specialist is of greatest value, and it is therefore with particular expectation that students have awaited the volumes of this great historical work on the last century.

That the volume before us meets our expectations as fully as we had hoped, is not true. There are excellent monographs, with plenty of detail, often coupled with a broad grasp of the subject, and a power of interpretation that is very illuminating. Among these is the second chapter by Professor Bourgeois, the one on the "Orleans Monarchy," though one might